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### Research of the History of the Early Medieval Fergana Valley by Foreign Scholars

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#### Abstract:

The article analyzes the study of the history of the Fergana Valley during the Hephthalite period, based on historical sources and literature. Scientific literature and researches in English, Russian, Turkish and other languages examine the aspects of the history of the Fergana Valley, which aspects were left out of the eyes of scholars, and the factors that led to this.

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The study of the history of the Hephthalite state is one of the most pressing problems in foreign research. Some works on the history of Central Asia, written by scholars from different countries, contain some information about the history of the Hephthalites of the region. However, to date, no research has been conducted by foreign authors on individual regions of Central Asia during the Hephthalite period.

Studies in foreign countries on the history of the first medieval period of Central Asia do not express special views and comments. Nevertheless, scientific studies published in France, Russia, Europe, America, Turkey, China, and Central Asia have provided some noteworthy insights into the scope of the problem we are interested in. K.V. Trever, B.A. Litvinsky, F. Grene, R. Fray, A. Kurbanov, I. Khanmuradov, R. Girshman, B. I. Weinberg and a number of other scholars wrote about the history of Central Asia during the Hephthalite period. expressed their views [1–16]. A characteristic feature of these studies is that almost all studies are not directly devoted to the history of the Hephthalite period in the Fergana Valley. Scholars who have provided information about the Hephthalite state, its territory, population, and culture in their research have only briefly commented on Fergana.

Frants Grenet's article, Regional Interaction in Central Asia and Northwest India in the Kidarite and

Hephthalite Periods, provides an overview of the activities of the Kidarites and Hephthalites in Central Asia and northern India. The scientist explains the aspects of the Fergana Valley related to the Hephthalites only with burial ceremonies, and his views are the same as those given by B.A. Litvinsky and K.A. Inostrantsev [9: 210].

In his book *The Hephthalite empire*, B.A. Litvinsky gave information about the political, social structure, and religious life of the Hephthalite period based on written and archeological sources. In the religious part of the work, it is noteworthy that the burials of the Hephthalites in the Chinese chronicles are similar to the tombs of the Hephthalite period found in the Fergana Valley. There is almost no information in written sources that the Hephthalites established their dominion in Fergana. Therefore, the study of connecting them with the valley is almost non-existent. Focusing on this issue, B.A. Litvinsky tries to see traces of Hephthalites in the Fergana Valley, relying on the tradition of burying the dead in wooden coffins or covering graves with stone slabs in a number of archeological sites, such as Karabulak, Isfara, Kayragach, Vorukh, Toshrobot [5: 674-681]. According to the researcher, this custom is associated with the tradition of burying the Hephthalites in Chinese chronicles such as the *Bei-shi* and *Lian-shu*. the following information is given about the funerals mentioned: if a person dies, a wealthy family collects stones to build a house [to store the corpse]; they dig the ground to bury a poor family. Everyday utensils are buried with the dead. " Another source describes the third type of burial: "When burying the dead, the coffin is placed in a wooden box. When a parent dies, the child cuts off one ear. " However, it is known that various forms of burial in Fergana, including small stone houses, deep tombs and wooden coffins, were used at that time. Therefore, it is assumed that these Chinese calculations are in fact a reflection of the life of Fergana "[13: 151]. According to B.A. Litvinsky, one of the ephthalite groups - "red xion" is associated with Fergana [4: 55-56]. The scientist's hypotheses are important in covering the cultural and social situation in the Fergana Valley during the Hephthalite period.

Based on the information that "according to Chinese chronicles, this tradition was also widespread among the Hephthalites," B.A. Litvinsky also compares the types of burial mounds and other tombs in the southern regions of Fergana, especially the custom of burying them in wooden coffins. Based on similar evidence, he concludes that the formation of the Hephthalites also took place in the mountainous areas of the Fergana Valley [7: 151]. M.M. Isomatov, who supported B.A. Litvinsky's opinion, mentioned in written sources, especially in Arabic and Persian sources, that some branches of Hephthalites lived in the south of Fergana, in particular, in the foothills of the Pamir Mountains. goes to the idea that [6: 15-16].

The research of the Tajik scientist M.M. Isamatov also contains information about the history of the Hephthalite period in Central Asia. His dissertation is entitled "History of Tabari Abu Ali Bal'ami as a source for the study of the relationship between the Hephthalites and the Sassanids" (IV-VI). (IV – VI)" (3283: p. Although the History of Balami gives a brief account of Fergana during the reign of Khusrav Anushirvan [22: 981], it does not provide detailed information about the Fergana Valley.

In general, before the Fergana Valley became part of the Turkic Khanate, between the 5th and 6th centuries AD, the valley was also ruled by members of the Chjaovu dynasty, which is also mentioned in Chinese chronicles and ruled all local states in Central Asia<sup>99</sup>. Also in these works, the question of whether Fergana was part of the Hephthalite state has not been sufficiently resolved. A.N.Bernshtam, B.A.Litvinsky and M.M.Isomatov argue that the political processes in Fergana, at least in its southern parts, took place in connection with the Hephthalites [2; 5; 7].

In the above-mentioned collection "Central Asia and the Far East in the Middle Ages" ("Central Asia and the Far East in the Middle Ages") in the section "Fergana" ("Farg'ona") written by G.A. Brykina, N.G. Gorbunova the political, socio-economic aspects of the history of the early Middle Ages are briefly covered. The authors mainly covered the history of the Fergana Valley on the basis of archeological materials and supplemented them using historical sources [23: 93-114].

A. Kurbanov's doctoral dissertation (PhD) in Berlin, entitled "The Hephthalites: archaeological and historical analysis" ("Hephthalites: archaeological and historical analysis"), covers various aspects of the history of the Hephthalite state, as well as local governments. The Hephthalite period is limited to issues of cultural and religious processes based on archeological materials when reporting on the Fergana Valley. The works of the Arab historians Dinovari, Tabari, Balami, Muqaddas and al-Kalkashondi, which contain important information about the Hephthalites, have been overlooked by the researcher. The scholar's historical essay "Eftality" [10: 5], published in Moscow, provides a systematic analysis of sources, archeological research and scientific literature on the Hephthalite state [11]. The study briefly discusses the political, socio-economic situation of the Fergana Valley during the Hephthalite period. It should be noted that the author in this monograph is limited to mentioning the views expressed in the scientific literature on the valley.

Another article by A. Kurbanov on the history of the Hephthalites analyzes iconographic materials of the Hephthalite period. During the analysis, the iconographic elements of the Buddha statue found in Quva Shahrstan suggest that it belongs to the northern Tokharistan school of the Hephthalite period [12: 322].

The study of the Turkish scholar Muslume Çeliktash also contains some information about the history of the Fergana Valley [16: 144]. It is said that after the conquest of Bactria, some of the Hephthalites came to Fergana. They then crossed India through Sogdiana and Bactria, occupying the northwestern part of the peninsula and completely subjugating the lands of the Kushan Empire [16: 64]. However, the researcher does not cite from any source the information provided by the Hephthalites regarding Fergana. So the information he provides is a bit controversial.

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